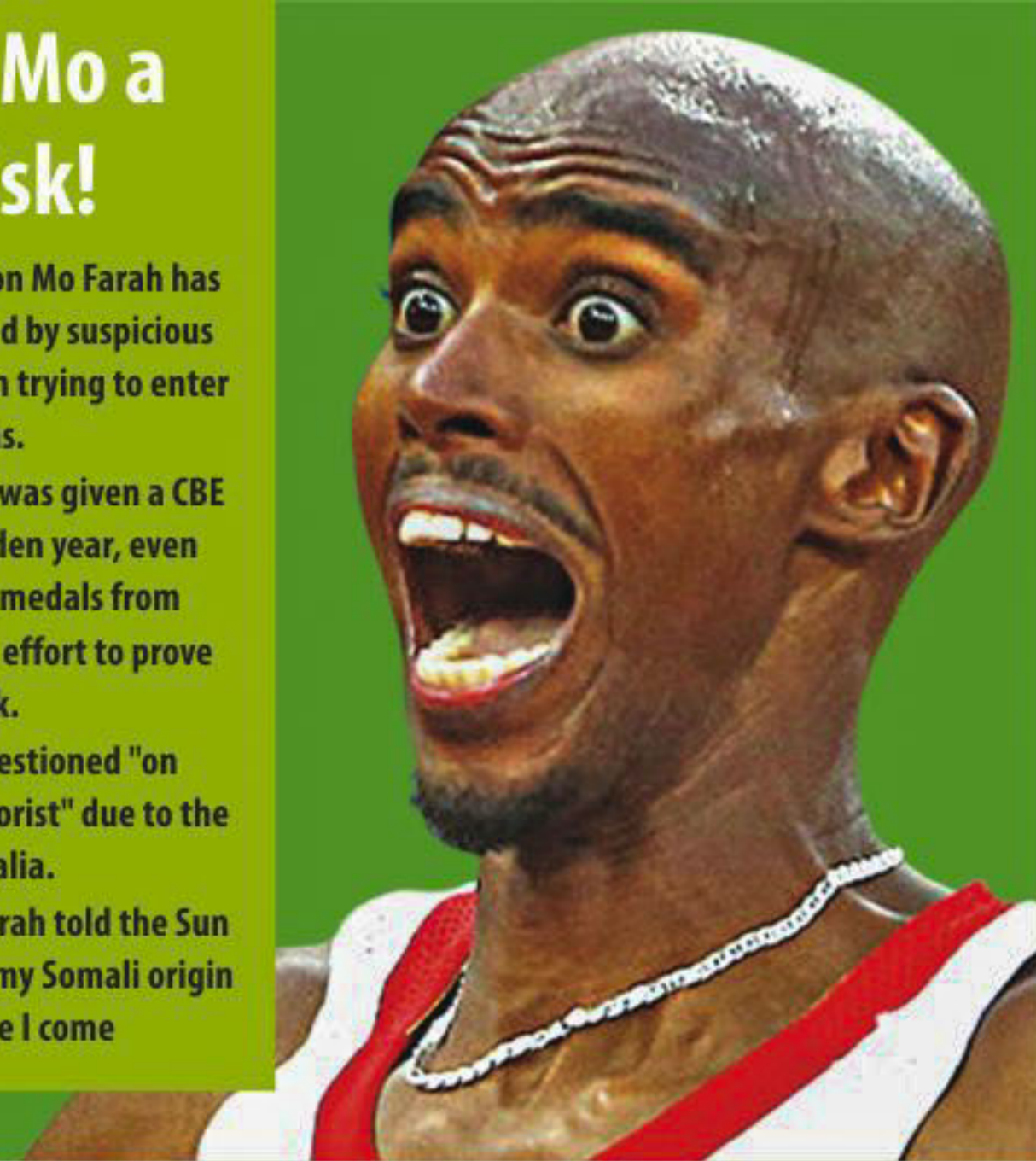


## Somalian Mo a security risk!

Double Olympic champion Mo Farah has revealed he was detained by suspicious US Custom officials when trying to enter the country for Christmas. Farah, who on Saturday was given a CBE in recognition of his golden year, even tried to produce his two medals from the London Games in an effort to prove he was not a security risk. However, he was still questioned "on suspicion of being a terrorist" due to the fact he was born in Somalia. "I couldn't believe it," Farah told the Sun on Sunday. "Because of my Somali origin I get detained every time I come



## Tour postponed

Concerns over Pakistanis' BPL participation



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's two-day tour of Pakistan, which was scheduled to take place on January 12 and 13, has been postponed on security grounds, informed Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon in a press conference at a city hotel yesterday. Papon stated that the board would continue observing the security situation in Pakistan and would go ahead with the tour if the scenario in the country 'improves'.

"There is obviously a lot more risk and more tension in Pakistan as compared to the other countries and the law and order situation there hasn't improved much," said Papon. "Many people in Bangladesh have already raised their voices against the tour. Considering the prevailing conditions, touring Pakistan right now will not be a wise decision," he added.

The BCB claimed to have sent a letter to the Pakistan Cricket Board four days ago informing of its decision. The president,

however, claimed that Bangladesh would stick to its commitment of touring Pakistan at a later stage.

"In the ICC board meeting, we committed ourselves to go to Pakistan. This is quite evident from the board meeting's minutes. It's unconditional. And it is clear that, even if the ICC doesn't provide match officials, we'll have to tour Pakistan, so it's almost mandatory," Papon said.

The consequences of the decision could prove to be costly for the board as the Pakistan Cricket Board had earlier stated that it would not allow its players to play in the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 if Bangladesh decided against touring Pakistan. Papon though, was aware of the possible ramifications of the board's decision and described the verdict to be an 'extremely difficult' one.

"It's not only BPL. But even apart from BPL we may not get Pakistan's support in various issues in the future. We know the consequences. I am not blaming Pakistan. If we were in Pakistan's place then we

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Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon speaks during the Exchange of View programme at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## League committee revised

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) revised the committee of the professional football league by including nine members of the participating clubs in face of demand from the clubs.

This revision raised the number of members in the committee from six to 15 as Abahani director Kazi Nabil Ahmed, Sheikh Jamal DC president Manjur Kader, Sheikh Russel president Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Mohammedan's football committee chairman Monjur Alam Manju, BJMC director Arif Khan Joy and other representatives were included. The revised committee will sit for a meeting on January 5.

## Women's handball

SPORTS REPORTER

Satkhira, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Panchagrah, Bangladesh Police, Rangpur, Kushtia and Ranamati emerged respective group champions to qualify for the next round of the Exim Bank 23rd National Women's Handball Championship yesterday.

At the Sultana Kamal Dhanmondi Complex, Satkhira registered a massive 17-0 win over Comilla, Rajshahi defeated Lalmonirhat 9-2, Jhalakathi thrashed Bandarban 11-2, Kurigram beat Natore 6-1 and Joypurhat recorded a 4-2 win over Lalmonirhat.

At the Shaheed (captain) Tajuddin Ahmed National Handball Stadium, Bangladesh Police crushed Faridpur 11-5, Rangpur blanked Madaripur 10-6, Kushitha defeated Narail 13-9, Ranamati overwhelmed Dhaka University 19-7 and Rajshahi thrashed Gopalganj 20-1.

## PCB furious



CRICINFO, Karachi

Zaka Ashraf, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, has expressed annoyance at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) decision to put their proposed tour of Pakistan on hold a second time.

He reacted aggressively, saying that Pakistan will 're-consider' its bilateral ties with Bangladesh after the BCB, once again, backed down from going ahead with the tour. Pakistan, he said, will not sacrifice their interests for those who do not honour their words.

The PCB, Ashraf said, had not forced Bangladesh to tour. "If they don't want to come its their own decision and we didn't force them," Zaka told ESPNcricinfo. Bangladesh, he said, had confirmed the tour to the PCB and the ICC, "three times and still they backed off. Now their own reputation is at stake. If they don't want to respect their bilateral relationship then we will also respond in a same manner."

The most immediate consequences of this breakdown of relations between the two boards over the controversial tour, will be felt at the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) which will begin on January 18. The BPL is clashing with the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, Pakistan's leading first-class event. ESPNcricinfo understands that the PCB is unlikely to release most of the top cricketers for the BPL.

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## BCB president stands by amended constitution



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon yesterday cleared the air about his ad-hoc committee's position regarding the recent amendments to the board's constitution.

While speaking at an 'Exchange of View' programme at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel the BCB boss said that his ad-hoc committee didn't make any recommendation for the amendments. The National Sports Council (NSC), the regulatory sports body in the country, made those changes themselves.

Everybody was eagerly waiting to know the opinion of the incumbent president regarding the issue, after former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury recently said at a press meet that the recent amendments were carried out in an undemocratic

way and that a couple of clauses drafted in it were immoral.

Papon not only came down hard on Saber but also highly appreciated the latest amended constitution by saying that it has created a level playing field for the next BCB election. Papon, the ruling party lawmaker and son of President Zillur Rahman, also raised his fingers towards a vested quarter who according to him tried to stage a pre-arranged election.

"Unfortunately I was not in the country when he (Saber Hossain Chowdhury) spoke to the media. I read his comments in the newspapers and I'm highly confused regarding his observations. My opinion is that ninety-five percent of his observations were not true and I really didn't expect such things from a man like him. Either you (the reporters) failed to understand his comments or you wrote the wrong thing, or someone might have mis-

guided him," the BCB president said about the comments made by Saber.

"The ad-hoc committee didn't recommend anything regarding the changes in the constitution and we can't do so. And the ad-hoc committee has no right to make fundamental changes. NSC has done all the things," said Papon when asked whether his committee made any recommendation for the latest amendment.

The NSC first made some very interesting observations on the board's amended constitution in October last year, which was approved in the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), and asked the board to adopt those observations in the constitution before sending it back to them for approval. Finally, the NSC approved a new one which featured some major changes soon after the formation of the BCB ad-hoc committee.

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## Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers Club beat Tasin Hasin Cricket Academy by four wickets in a First Division Cricket League match yesterday at the City Club Ground. Batting first the Cricket Academy was bowled out for 144 runs in 41.1 overs. In reply, the Wanderers reached the total comfortably in 33.4 overs.

In the other games, Young Pegasus Club beat Biman BD Airlines Cricket Team by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Baridhara Dazzlers defeated Azad Sporting Club by 34 runs. The BKSP witnessed a thrilling contest between Kathalbagan Green Crescent Club and Agrani Bank Cricket Club with the latter winning by two wickets.

SCORES IN BRIEF  
TASIN HASIN CRICKET ACADEMY: 144 all out in

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## BCL transfers completed

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj SC, Dhaka United SC, Wari Club, Baridhara Club and Victoria SC completed their registration formalities of the Bangladesh Championship League on the concluding day of the players transfer at the Bangladesh Football Federation House yesterday.

Farashganj, Dhaka United signed up 30 players each while Wari Club and Baridhara Club roped in 25 and 28 players respectively. Chittagong Abahani signed up 30 players on Monday while Rahmatganj, Agrani Bank completed their players' registration formalities few days earlier. Victoria SC were supposed to turn up yesterday night to complete their registration.

The eight-team second edition of Bangladesh Championship League (BCL) is scheduled to get underway from the third week of January. Top two

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UFO? Austria's Wolfgang Loitzl soars through the air during the practice session for the second jumping of the 61st Four-Hills Ski Jumping Tournament at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in southern Germany yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS